

Voices for Animals

170 Rugby Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903
USA

5646 '99 APR 13 11:49
April 8, 1999

Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Dr.
Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Docket 98P-0203/CP.

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

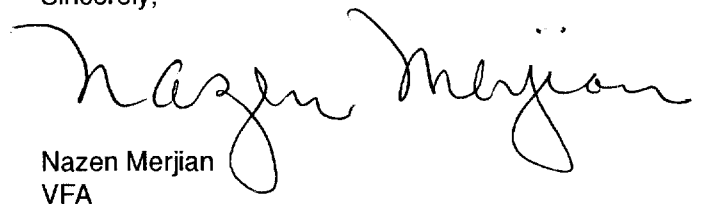
We support the petition to ban the forced molting of laying hens.

It is untenable that to trick the hens into laying more eggs, they are deprived of food and water for two weeks or more. Hundreds of thousands of hens slowly and painfully starving to death just to reduce the time that the house is not producing income is unconscionable.

As if the lives of battery hens were not horrific enough, forced molting stresses and shocks them into losing their feathers quickly and forcing their worn-out bodies into a new laying cycle. They resort often to eating their own feathers after pecking at empty food trays amid rotting corpses and manure covered feathers. This has to result in sick birds and contaminated eggs.

This practice is hideous. Please put a stop to it.

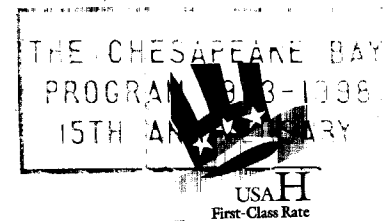
Sincerely,


Nazen Merjian
VFA

98P-0203

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